

May 26, 1949

To: Director and Laboratory Staff  
From: Survey and Appraisal  
Subject: SURVEY NOTES

## FARM SITUATION

### DEMAND HIGH FOR FARM PRODUCTS; FARM PRODUCT PRICES MAY DECLINE

The demand for farm products is being maintained at a high level despite some evidences of weakening. Industrial production, adjusted for seasonal factors, dropped 3 percent in March and continued to decline in early April. Commodity prices generally, after recovering from the sharp drop in early February, have resumed the downward trend which began last summer, with most of the decline in wholesale levels for farm products and foods. Until 1949 crops are harvested, agricultural prices will be affected by changes in crop prospects. A downward trend may result from seasonally increased marketings of truck crops, meat animals and dairy products in the next month or two.

Demand and Price Situation, BAE, April 1949, p. 1.

## COTTON LINT

### COTTON CONSUMPTION DECLINES

Cotton consumption was only 597 thousand bales during April, a 17 percent drop from March of this year and 28 percent drop from one year ago.

Table 1.- Cotton consumption and stocks, and spindle hours in cotton mills

	April 1949	March 1949	February 1949	April 1948
Consumption, bales.....	597,031	720,892	640,182	829,730
On hand, 1000 bales.....	7,320	8,175	9,118	5,056
Active spindle hours, billions..	-	8.9	8.4	10.7
Spindle activity, percent of 80-hour capacity 1/.....	-	106.8	112.3	136.1

1/ Includes activity on fibers other than cotton, totaling 0.6 to 0.7 billion spindle hours for each month shown.  
From Census reports.

### MILL MARGINS AND FABRIC PRICES DROP

Viscose and acetate staple fiber prices remained stable, while cotton dropped slightly from April to May. On May 19, viscose staple was about 1-1/2 cents cheaper per pound than cotton. Mill margins (average 17 constructions) and fabric prices continued to decline.



Table 2.- Prices of raw cotton, rayon staple and cotton fabrics,  
and cotton mill margins in cents.

	:May 19:	April :	March :	February:	April
	: 1949 :	1949 :	1949 :	1949 :	1948
Cotton, Middling 15/16"	:	:	:	:	:
delivered at mills, lb.....	34.35	34.76	34.38	34.41	38.46
Rayon, viscose staple,	:	:	:	:	:
equivalent price 1/, lb.....	32.93	32.93	32.93	32.93	32.04
Rayon, acetate staple	:	:	:	:	:
equivalent price 1/, lb.....	37.38	37.38	37.38	42.72	42.72
Cotton fabrics, average 17 constructions,:	:	:	:	:	:
Price for cloth from 1 lb. of cotton 2/:	-	62.56	63.70	64.55	88.13
Mill margins 3/.....	-	29.93	31.35	32.29	51.01
Sheeting, 37" 4.00, yd. 4/.....	15.50	16.00	16.50	16.50	19.00
Osnaburg, 36" 2.35, yd. 4/.....	20.00	20.38	21.25	21.25	24.50
Printcloth, 38-1/2" 5.35, yd. 4/.....	13.25	14.75	14.75	15.00	19.38
	:	:	:	:	:

- 1/ Cost to mill of same amount of usable fiber as supplied by one pound of cotton (rayon price x.89).
- 2/ Price of approximate quantity of cloth obtainable from a pound of cotton with adjustments for saleable wastes (Cotton Branch, PMA).
- 3/ Difference between cloth prices and prices (10-market average) of cotton assumed to be used in each kind of cloth (Cotton Branch, PMA).
- 4/ From Daily Mill Stock Reporter and Daily Mews Record.
- 5/ Preliminary.

#### FINAL COTTON PRODUCTION ESTIMATE FOR 1948 ANNOUNCED

Estimated final cotton production for 1948, based on Census Bureau ginning figures, was 14,868,000 bales of 500 pounds each, compared with 11,857,000 bales in 1947. Lint yield per harvested acre was 313.1 pounds against 267.3 pounds the previous year. Cotton area harvested was 22,768,000 acres in 1948 and 21,269,000 in 1947.

Cotton Production, BAE, May 6, 1949.

#### LEAF-STRIPPING CHEMICAL SPEEDS COTTON HARVESTING

According to H. G. Guy, of Koppers Co., Inc., a new chemical, ammonium thiocyanate, is the first defoliation chemical that can be applied in liquid form and the first to be effective under all climatic conditions. Defoliation agents commonly used at present are dusted on the cotton fields and can be applied only after a heavy dew if they are to be effective. This new chemical—applied by spraying from airplanes—defoliates cotton plants within fifteen days and speeds uniform development of the cotton bolls without harming them. It may save the cotton farmer as much as \$35 per acre a year.

Journal of Commerce, April 21, 1949, p. 13.



# COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND EQUIPMENT

## COTTON CLOTH OUTPUT TO DROP A BILLION YARDS

According to Ray Bell, President of the Association of Cotton Textile Merchants of New York, one billion fewer yards of cotton cloth will be produced in the first six months of 1949 than were turned out by mills in the corresponding months of 1948. He says, with data on cotton consumption and spindle activity for the first three months confirming a 20 percent decline in production, and with a deepening degree of mill curtailment indicated so far in the second quarter, he foresees an inadequate output in proportion to the nation's population.

Cotton Trade Journal, May 6, 1949, p. 1

## NET INCOME OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY DOWN

The net income of 28 corporations in the textile and garment industry for the first three months of 1949 was down to \$17.6 million, or 51.9 percent lower than in the first quarter of last year. For all industries, however, total net income was 6.5 percent greater than a year ago.

Table 3.- Net income of leading corporations for the first quarters of 1948 and 1949

No. of Cos.	Industry group	Reported net income		Change from first quarter 1948
		1st. qtr. 1949	1st. qtr. 1948	
		Thousand dollars	Thousand dollars	Percent
25	Food products.....	34,028	36,700	- 7.3
28	Textiles and apparel.....	17,603	36,584	-51.9
21	Pulp and paper industries.....	15,735	20,918	-24.8
43	Chemical, drugs, etc.....	124,590	110,637	+12.6
16	Petroleum products.....	162,407	186,935	-13.1
22	Cement, glass, and stone.....	33,446	29,847	+12.1
38	Iron and steel.....	185,759	111,935	+66.0
13	Building, heating, plumbing equipment:	4,879	8,722	-44.1
16	Electrical equipment and radio.....	44,731	45,517	- 1.7
39	Machinery.....	26,143	21,192	+23.4
9	Office equipment.....	15,327	17,191	-10.8
10	Autos and trucks.....	152,878	107,774	+41.9
26	Automobile parts.....	27,046	26,739	+ 1.1
9	Railway equipment.....	10,803	8,446	+27.9
60	Other metal products.....	53,654	53,949	- 0.5
44	Miscellaneous manufacturing.....	44,443	52,296	-16.0
419	Total manufacturing.....	953,472	876,012	+ 8.8
36	Mining and quarrying.....	33,586 1/2	40,057 1/2	-16.2
25	Trade (retail and wholesale).....	18,233	28,680	-36.4
20	Service industries.....	11,138	10,049	+10.8
500	Total.....	1,016,429	954,798	+ 6.5

1/ Before depletion charges in some cases.



## FABRIC WEARABILITY NOW TESTED ELECTRONICALLY

The probable life of fabrics at points of wear can now be determined accurately, without injury to the goods, by measuring the "electrical capacity" of the cloth in use at regular intervals. Electrical capacity is the property of materials which permits the storage of electricity when there are potential differences between conductors. It decreases with wear. A new instrument measures wear in textiles by sending electrical impulses through the fabric. Terminals of the electric source are far enough apart so that the sample of textile can be passed between them. The new process, developed by the Bureau of Standards, promises to have wide applications in replacing unsatisfactory and destructive methods now employed for measuring wear. One of these is by measurement of the time required to wear through a sample in an abrading machine.

Southern Textile News, May 7, 1949, p. 15.

## ACCURATE MIXING WITH FIBER METERS

Guess work in the blending of fibers going to the pickers can be eliminated with the use of three Fiber Meters, developed, designed, and patented by the Marion Manufacturing Company of North Carolina. Sandwich blending can be discarded, and a Fiber Meter line installed behind each of the mill's pickers. Previously set controls on the individual Fiber Meters cause them to deliver to a conveyor belt measured amounts of stock, correctly proportioned as to type of fiber. The belt, traveling at 300 feet per minute, delivers the stock to a Centrif-Air unit (used for mixing, not cleaning) and thence to the picker. At full capacity Marion's trio of feeders can handle a total of 1,450 pounds of stock per hour. The feeders drop their individual percentages of the mix simultaneously about every ten seconds. Reworked waste is blended into some mixtures from a smaller feeder in front of the Fiber Meters.

Textile Bulletin, April 1949, p. 78

## NEX TEXTILE INSTRUMENTS DEVELOPED

The Institute of Textile Technology has perfected a cloth inspection machine and a uniformity meter. The cloth inspection machine has an oscillating mirror which tracks a section of cloth, flicks quickly back to its original position, and tracks the next section, thus creating the illusion that the cloth remains stationary. The machine is so synchronized that when the inspector sees a defect he can simply stop the machine and the bad place in the fabric will be before him on the burling table. The uniformity meter measures and makes a permanent record of the uniformity of yarn, roving, sliver, or other filamentary material, in terms of weight per unit of length. This meter, which can be used on cotton, nylon, rayon, wool, etc., operates on the dielectric effect: the material being tested passes between the plates of an electrical condenser, changing the capacity of the condenser by an amount proportional to the dielectric constant of the material and the weight of the material. The instrument is insensitive to such things as amount of twist, compactness, etc.

Journal of Commerce, April 20, 1949, p. 20.

## NEW TENTER FRAME FOR COTTON FINISHING

A new tenter frame for cotton finishing, said to anticipate future needs of the industry, has been developed by Winsor & Jerauld Mfg. Co., Providence, R. I. The driving end is built on a welded steel bed-plate so braced internally that the rotating and sliding members are assured of perfect alignment. The bevel gears run on anti-friction bearings which carry the slide gears full floating.



Vertical gears are straddle mounted. This construction insures permanent alignment of the gear teeth.

Cotton Trade Journal April 22, 1949, p. 10

## COTTON PRODUCTS

### BAGS: FABRIC BAG PRICES DECLINE

Cotton and burlap bag prices continued to decline from April to May with cotton bags showing a drop of \$6.00, and burlap \$7.20, per thousand bags. On the basis of once-used bags, the net cost of using cotton bags now is \$97.75 per thousand bags as compared to \$97.20 for burlap bags and \$98.75 for paper bags.

Table 4.- Mid-month prices of 100-pound flour bags

	(Dollars per thousand)				
	May	April	March	May	
	1949	1949	1949	1948	
Prices, new, St. Louis <sup>1/</sup>					
Cotton.....	227.75	233.75	237.00	255.85	
Burlap.....	197.20	204.40	215.75	217.45	
Paper.....	108.75	108.75	114.05	108.65	
Prices, second-hand, New York					
Cotton, once-used <sup>2/</sup> .....	130.00	130.00	140.00	140.00	
Cotton, bakery run <sup>3/</sup> .....	100.00	105.00	110.00	115.00	
Burlap, once-used <sup>2/</sup> .....	100.00	110.00	115.00	--	
Burlap, bakery run <sup>3/</sup> .....	100.00	100.00	105.00	105.00	
Paper, bakery run <sup>3/</sup> .....	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
Difference					
Cotton, new minus once-used.....	97.75	103.75	97.00	115.85	
Cotton, new minus bakery run.....	127.75	128.75	127.00	140.85	
Burlap, new minus once-used.....	97.20	89.40	100.75	--	
Burlap, new minus bakery run.....	97.20	104.40	110.75	112.45	
Paper, new minus bakery run.....	98.75	98.75	104.05	98.65	

- <sup>1/</sup> Cotton, 37" 4.00 yd. sheeting cut 43" unprinted; burlap, 36" 10 oz. cut 43" unprinted; paper, 18 x 4-1/2 x 36-3/4" unprinted; all l.c.l. shipments. No allowance made for quantity or cash discount. From a large bag manufacturer.
- <sup>2/</sup> From a large second-hand bag dealer.
- <sup>3/</sup> From Daily Mill Stock Reporter.

### BAGS: DRESS PRINT BAG SALES GAIN 70 PERCENT

An impressive 70 percent gain in the number of dress print cotton flour bags sold by bag processing companies to retail outlets during March is one of the several significant factors pointing to success in the industry-wide campaign to keep salvage prices for emptied cotton containers at their current high level and thus reduce the net cost to the flour bag users, the Cotton Bag Market Committee reports. In addition to the increase in sales of dress print bags by converters to retail stores, plain white bags sold through similar outlets gained 18 percent. Looked upon just as favorably is the 60 percent increase in sales of dress print bags and the 25 percent increase in sales of plain white bags by bakers to the converting companies during March. According to Committee Chairman George A. Hauser of Hesslein & Co., he considers most encouraging the fact that converters



are moving into retail outlets more processed cotton flour bags than they are receiving from bakers, despite figures which show 53 large bakers, representing an annual volume of 3,410,940 bags, switching from other containers to cotton within the last six weeks.

Journal of Commerce, May 3, 1949, p. 14

#### FABRIC: RAYON GAINED, COTTON DECLINED IN 1948 BROAD WOVEN GOODS PRODUCTION

According to a study by the Textile Economics Bureau, broad woven goods production from all fibers in 1948 totaled 12,388,000,000 linear yards, 1 percent above the output in 1947 and 23 percent above 1939. Only in 1941 to 1943 was a higher level attained. Highlighting the 1948 production was the new record set for rayon, silk, nylon and related broad woven fabrics, which totaled 2,279,000,000 linear yards, a gain of 14 percent over the preceding year. The rise in rayon and related woven goods offset a decline in the output of cotton goods, which at 9,646,000,000 yards was 2 percent under 1947 although 14 percent above the average for 1937 to 1939.

Southern Textile News, April 16, 1949, p. 1

#### CHEESECLOTH: KENDALL SURVEY BREAKS DOWN USES

According to a survey made by the Kendall Mills, housewives are the greatest consumers of cheesecloth in the United States, using 35.7 percent of the 140.0 million yards annually produced. Other users are manufacturers, 31.4 percent; dairy farmers, gardeners and orchardmen, 9.5 percent; office workers (who use it for cleaning and dusting), 3.4 percent; and miscellaneous, 20.0 percent.

Journal of Commerce, May 16, 1949, p. 14

#### COATED FABRICS: COTTON USED IN ARTIFICIAL LEATHER

A French patent, No. 591,885, granted to Salpa Francaise, describes a product, capable of replacing leather, which is obtained by applying a coating of suitable composition to a fabric of cotton or other material. A mixed emulsion of polyvinyl resin and anthracene oil is used for the coating. In one example a mixture is prepared with the following ingredients:

Aqueous emulsion of polyvinyl acetate containing--	
60 percent of dry extract.....	1,000 grams
Anthracene oil.....	350 grams
Kaolin.....	300 grams
Lamp black.....	150 grams

A viscous paste is obtained which is applied in a thin layer to fabric, in the proportion of 50 grams per square metre (calculated by dry product). The fabric is then dried in an oven at a temperature of 70 degrees C., and a product which is capable of replacing leather is obtained.

Jute Bulletin, Indian Central Jute Committee, Oct. 1948, p. 255

#### NON-WOVEN FABRIC: NEW FABRIC HAS EQUAL STRENGTH IN ALL DIRECTIONS

The West Point Manufacturing Company has developed a new non-woven fabric with equal strength in all directions. All types of fabric are reported to have been used in experiments conducted at the company's plants--cotton, rayon, and mixtures gave equal success. West Point is planning to erect a special plant for the production of this new non-woven fabric with specially designed equipment.

Rayon and Synthetic Textiles, Feb. 1949, p. 69



# TIRE FABRIC: PRICES UNCHANGED

Prices for tire fabrics remained unchanged for passenger tire fabric and 1100/2 rayon truck tire fabric, but 2200/2 rayon truck tire fabric declined slightly during April.

Table 5.- Prices of cotton and rayon tire fabric, May 1 and April 1, 1949

Fabric	Cord	Fabric weight per sq. yd.	Price per pound		Price per sq. yd.	
			May 1	April 1	May 1	April 1
			Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Passenger car tires						
Cotton fabric.....	12/4/2	.86	72	72	62	62
Rayon fabric.....	1650/2	.67	68.5-70	68.5-70	46-47	46-47
Truck tires						
Rayon fabric.....	1100/2	.54	69-71	69-71	37-38	37-38
Rayon fabric.....	2200/2	.81	67-68	67-69	54-55	54-56

Based on reports from independent rubber companies for fabric constructions most heavily used.

## TIRE CORD: AMERICAN VISCOSE REDUCES TIRE CORD PRICE 2 CENTS; FABRIC 4 CENTS

The American Viscose Corp. has announced a price cut of 2 cents per pound for tire cord and 4 cents per pound for tire cord fabric, effective May 11. The new prices are 55 cents per pound for 1100 denier yarn; 54 cents per pound for 1650 denier yarn; and 53 cents per pound for 2200 denier yarn. New fabric prices are 66 cents and 65 cents per pound for the 1100/2 and the 2200/2 cord fabric, respectively.

The North American 1100 and 1650 denier yarns will be offered at the same levels as those of Avisco. Other large rayon companies are studying the price structure, and observers predicted that these producers would be forced to follow the lead of Avisco and North American shortly.

In view of the tight supply condition of rayon tire yarn, producers generally were astonished by the reduction. In an attempt to account for the Avisco decision, trade spokesmen pointed to the possibility of inducing tire manufacturers to put greater emphasis on the use of rayon as opposed to cotton through a rayon cord price cut. Some trade sources stated that the Avisco move can be explained by the fact that the differential between cotton and rayon prices has been increasing to a point where the tire manufacturers are on the verge of shifting a portion of their output back to cotton despite the advantages of rayon cord.

Journal of Commerce, May 16, 1949, p. 1

## COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

### RAYON: TOTAL SHIPMENTS DOWN IN 1949; STAPLE FIBER DELIVERIES OFF 47 PERCENT

Total shipments of rayon during the first four months of 1949 were 286.5 million pounds, or 19 percent less than the January-April period last year. Staple fiber deliveries for the same period were down 47 percent.



Table 6.- Rayon shipments, United States, January-April, 1948 and 1949

(Million pounds)			
	January-April 1949	January-April 1948	Change from last year
TOTAL SHIPMENTS.....	286.5	354.0	-19.1
Filament yarn.....	239.3	265.1	-10.0
Viscose.....	163.5	176.5	- 7.4
Acetate.....	75.8	88.6	-14.4
Staple fiber.....	47.2	88.9	-46.9
Viscose.....	36.1	59.8	-39.6
Acetate.....	11.1	29.1	-61.9

From Rayon Organon, May 1949.

#### RAYON: VISCOSE MILL RAISES TIRE CORD OUTPUT 8 PERCENT

The American Viscose Corporation's plant at Front Royal, Va., is raising its production of rayon tire cord 8 percent, and cutting its output of rayon staple fiber by one-third. Company officials said that conditions, considered only temporary, caused the reduction in staple fiber manufacture.

Journal of Commerce, April 25, 1949, p. 8A

#### RAYON: NEW TYPE OF STAPLE FIBER INTRODUCED

The Celanese Corporation has developed a new staple fiber, Celcos, which combines features of both acetate and viscose fibers. Celcos is produced and crimped in predetermined filament sizes and lengths in both bright and dull lusters. It absorbs more moisture than acetate rayon staple but less than viscose; is less thermoplastic than acetate staple; and can be dyed with either acetate or cotton dyestuffs. By itself, or blended with other fibers, it can be processed into yarns on standard types of carding and spinning equipment. It can be raw stock dyed, or fabrics containing Celcos can be piece dyed and finished on conventional equipment. Two-tone effects can be obtained when Celcos is blended in a single yarn with acetate staple fiber. Celcos by itself or in blends provides finished fabrics with advantages such as resiliency; easy washability, dry cleanability, and ironability; and improved dimensional stability, thus reducing the shrinkage or stretch inherent in some other types of untreated fabric. Fabrics from Celcos can best be used in women's suiting and dress goods and men's wear suiting. Celcos is now being produced in moderate quantities at Celanese's weaving plants, and additional developmental work will be carried on by outside textile mills. The new staple will be sold at the same price level as acetate fiber, 42 cents per pound.

Journal of Commerce, April 26, 1949, p. 12

#### EAYON: 28 PERCENT OF SUMMER SUIT VOLUME SEEN FOR RAYON THIS YEAR

According to Joseph A. Golden, of the Burlington Men's Wear Corp., spun rayon and rayon acetate blends will account for 23 to 28 percent of the total summer suit volume this year. This compares with 17 percent in 1948. Mr. Golden further predicts that in 1950 this percentage will jump to 35 to 40 percent of the total summer suit volume. He says that this increase in rayon summer suit volume is due in large part to the characteristic qualities of rayon fabrics and suits,



which have never before been present in summer suits. These qualities include a price within reach of the consumer; the smooth, cold surface of rayon fiber which doesn't scratch and is cool to the body; a wrinkle-resistant quality due to recently developed finishing techniques; the stable nature of rayon with its quality of only a slight degree of moisture absorption, permitting a garment to be free from puckering in the most humid and damp weather; and finally, the attractive pattern work which can be produced due to the evenness of the filament yarn.

Daily News Record, May 11, 1949, p.3

#### VICARA: TENSILE STRENGTH NOW 20,000 POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH

According to a statement by Mr. W. P. terHorst, of the Virginia-Carolina Corp., the tensile strength of the current production of vicara has been increased to 20,000 pounds per square inch and is now on a par with that of wool or cellulose acetate without sacrificing any of the other desirable properties. Vicara is now lower in cost (83.2¢ per pound) than Australian wool, nylon, silk, ramie, glass wool, Egyptian cotton and vinyon. It costs more than viscose rayon, cellulose acetate, or domestic cotton, but its use in blends with these fibers is justified through quality improvements as a result of its resistance to alkalis and acids.

Journal of Commerce, May 10, 1949, p. 16.

#### WOOL: LIGHTER WEIGHT WOOL SUITING EXPECTED IN FUTURE

According to Giles E. Hopkins, Technical Director of the Wool Bureau, lighter weight wool suiting can be expected in the future. Men's suits in 1915 moved from 16 ounces to 15 ounces, then to 10 to 10½ ounce tropicals, and now use 9 to 9½ ounce tropicals. An 8 ounce tropical will be available, he says, adding that perhaps the consumer is ready for a 6 ounce suiting. Mr. Hopkins also says stiff bulky overcoats have bowed to lighter-weight coats as closed motor vehicles replaced open cars.

Daily News Record, May 11, 1949, p. 19

#### WOOL: CONSUMPTION DOWN 23 PERCENT FROM FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1948

Consumption of wool, on a scoured basis, was 89.9 million pounds for the first two months of 1949, 23 percent below the same period last year. This drastic decline was caused by a drop in the use of apparel wool, which fell 32 percent under the figure for January-February 1948.

Table 7. Consumption of wool of the sheep, U. S., January-February 1948 and 1949

	: January-February:	: January-February:	: Change since
	: 1949	: 1948	: last year
	: Million	: Million	
	: pounds	: pounds	: Percent
TOTAL.....	: 89.9	: 116.1	: -22.6
Apparel class.....	: 57.3	: 84.6	: -32.3
Woolen system.....	: 20.3	: 29.3	: -30.7
Worsted system.....	: 37.0	: 55.3	: -33.1
Carpet class, foreign.....	: 32.6	: 31.5	: + 3.5
Woolen system.....	: 31.9	: 30.3	: + 5.3
Worsted system.....	: .7	: 1.2	: -58.3

Journal of Commerce, May 6, 1949, p. 13



#### WOOL: TEXAS TO HAVE FIRST WOOLEN MILL

A woolen mill at Brownwood, Texas, will be opened soon by the Ziock Industries, Inc. It will cost \$300,000 and will produce finished cloth. Brownwood was selected as the site of the new woolen mill because the buildings at Camp Bowie could be used; water and labor were available; and it is located in the center of the wool producing section of Texas.

Southern Textile News, April 16, 1949, p. 2

#### KOROSEAL: NEW COATED FABRIC: GLASS YARN CORE, KOROSEAL EXTERIOR

According to B. F. Goodrich Rubber Co., a new line of coated fabrics, made of yarns covered with Koroseal, is now available. Present production is limited to woven fabrics with glass yarn as the core, but the yarn may also be braided or crocheted. Fabrics now available are in various widths--from those needed for shoe lace or webbing manufacture up to 72 inches.

Rayon and Synthetic Textile, February 1949, p. 69

#### TEXTILE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

##### RAYON: AVISCO AND MONSANTO FORM RESEARCH FIRM

American Viscose Corp. and Monsanto Chemical Co. have joined in the formation of a new company for research and development work in the field of synthetic fibers. Dr. Carroll Hochwalt of Monsanto will head the new company, which will utilize the research facilities of both firms in its projected work.

Journal of Commerce, May 6, 1949, p. 12

##### RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES AVAILABLE FOR TEXTILE TESTING

The U. S. Testing Company has announced further opportunities for practical application of atomic energy. Radioactive isotopes are now available to the textile industry for applied research such as the measurement of thickness of a coating on fabric or yarn, indicating the uniformity of distribution.

Service Bulletin, U.S. Testing Co., May 1, 1949, p. 6.

##### AMERICAN COTTON MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION NAMES RESEARCH GROUP

Members of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association's recently-formed committee on research have been announced by F. Sadler Love, ACMA secretary-treasurer. The group is headed by M. Earl Heard, West Point Manufacturing Co., Shawmut, Alabama, as chairman. Others on the committee are: Robert W. Philip, Callaway Mills Co., Lagrange, Ga.; Dr. V. B. Holland, Cannon Mill Co., Kannapolis, N. C.; Dr. R. H. Tuttle, Fieldcrest Mills, Spray, N. C.; James M. Bennett, Riegel Textile Corp., Ware Shoals, S. C.; Dr. H. M. Chase, Dan River Mills, Inc., Danville, Va.; Dr. Norman Armitage, Deering Milliken Research Trust, Greenwich, Conn.; J. B. Goldberg, J. P. Stevens & Co., Inc., New York; and W. A. Turner, Avondale Mills, Sylacauga, Ala.

Daily News Record, April 27, 1949, p. 30

#### OILSEEDS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

##### LARGE PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC VEGETABLE OILS INDICATED FOR FIRST HALF 1949

Production of domestic vegetable oils in the first half of 1949 is large, reflecting the carryover on January 1 of soybeans, flaxseed, and cottonseed from



the 1948 bumper crops. The carryover of old crop flaxseed, including linseed oil in terms of flaxseed, on July 1 this year is expected to approximate 30 million bushels against a normal carryover of about 10 million. Large stocks of exportable flaxseed in Canada and of linseed oil in Argentina may compete with United States flaxseed in world markets. Flaxseed harvested in 1949 will be supported at \$3.99 per bushel, Minneapolis basis, as compared with \$6.00 last season.

Demand and Price Situation, April 1949, p.12

FATS AND OILS PRICES RECOVER SLIGHTLY FROM LOW POINT; MEALS DECLINE

By April 1949, prices of fats and oils had declined 40 percent from the January 1948 peak as factory and warehouse stocks increased substantially. Prospects for a continued large domestic output in 1949 and the possibility of a moderate decline in consumer income will tend to keep prices low in relation to those of the last 2 years. However, price supports for the 1949 crops of soybeans, flaxseed, and peanuts, plus strong export demand, will moderate further price declines on oilseeds, as well as on fats and oils generally. After hitting a low in late March and early April, most vegetable oil prices recovered moderately and at mid-May were higher than a month earlier. Meal prices continued to decline, linseed meal losing \$7.60 per ton during the past month (table 8).

Fats and Oils Situation, Feb., Mar., Apr. 1949, p.1

Table 8.- Prices of vegetable oils and meals

	May 1949	April 1949 11/	April 1949	May 1948	September 1946
	Cents per pound				
<b>OILS 1/</b>	May 16				
Cottonseed oil.....	11.8	11.0	11.4	34.6	12.5
Peanut oil.....	13.5	12.0	14.4	33.2	13.0
Soybean oil.....	11.0	10.5	10.8	26.3	11.8
Corn oil.....	12.3	11.0	11.6	33.5	12.8
Coconut oil 2/.....	19.0	17.2	17.6	28.2	11.1
Linseed oil 3/.....	29.0	28.8	28.8	29.0	17.8
Tung oil 4/.....	22.5	20.8	21.6	25.8	39.0
	Dollars per ton				
<b>MEALS 5/</b>	May 14				
Cottonseed meal 6/.....	56.00	56.50	56.75	80.55	62.75
Peanut meal 7/.....	60.00	60.40	62.50	81.60	67.25
Soybean meal 8/.....	68.25	70.55	67.40	86.60	66.00
Coconut meal 9/.....	59.00	60.83	66.30	90.10	59.70
Linseed meal 10/.....	56.00	63.60	64.90	71.25	59.25

- 1/ Crude, tanks, f.o.b. mills except noted. From Oil Paint and Drug Reporter (daily quotations) and from Fats and Oils Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).
- 2/ Crude, tanks, carlots, Pacific Coast. Three cents added to allow for tax on first domestic processing.
- 3/ Raw, drums, carlots, New York.
- 4/ Drums, carlots, New York.
- 5/ Bagged carlots, as given in Feedstuffs (daily quotation) and Feed Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).
- 6/ 41 percent protein, Memphis.
- 7/ 45 percent protein, S. E. Mills.
- 8/ 41 percent protein, Chicago.
- 9/ 19 percent protein, Los Angeles.
- 10/ 32 percent protein, Minneapolis, prior to May 1947, 34 percent after that date.
- 11/ Preliminary.



## 1948 PRODUCTION OF COTTONSEED HIGHEST SINCE 1937

In ginning the 1948 cotton crop, an estimated 5,941 thousand tons of cottonseed were separated from the lint, as compared with 4,681 thousand tons for the previous year's crop. This is the highest production of cottonseed since 1937 when 7,844 thousand tons were produced and 6,326 thousand tons were crushed. Based on deliveries to oil mills through February 28, 1949, approximately 5,379 thousand tons—or 91 percent—of the 1948 crop will be crushed.

Cotton Production, BAE, May 6, 1949.

Table 9.— Cottonseed: Yield per acre, production, quantity crushed, season average price per ton received by farmers, and farm value, United States, 1935-39 average and 1945-48

Year beginning August	Yield : of seed : per acre	Production :	Quantity : of seed : crushed	Price : per : ton	Farm : value
	Pounds	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Dollars	1,000 dollars
1935-39.....	398	5,554	4,653	25.35	137,507
1945.....	430	3,664	3,262	51.10	187,155
1946.....	399	3,515	3,090	72.00	252,674
1947.....	435	4,681	4,081	85.90	402,015
1948.....	525	5,941	5,379	67.40	400,259

1/ Indicated December 1, 1948.

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## MILO YIELDS WAX FOR FLOORS, STARCH LIKE TAPIOCA

The Dodge City Industries recently has started operating a pilot plant to process milo, a grain sorghum, which until now has gone primarily into livestock feed for industrial uses. The operation separates starch from the bran in the milo kernel. It does not make starch, tapioca or other end products, but breaks the milo into usable components. Most of the bran, is being used experimentally for recovery of a valuable wax. This wax is probably the most important single product of the milo processing operation. It can be used in floor polishes and in carbon paper. It is similar to the carnauba wax now imported from Brazil, which sells for \$1.50 a pound.

Wall Street Journal, May 2, 1949, p. 1.

## WORLD SOYBEAN OUTPUT A RECORD

World soybean production reached an all-time high of approximately 593 million bushels in 1948, compared with 538 million in 1947, according to a revised estimate of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Canada and the United States harvested record crops while China, now second in world soybean production, had the largest crop in more than a decade. Canada's estimate has been revised to 1,800 thousand bushels, 64 percent greater than in 1947. The United States produced more than 220 million bushels to reach first place in world output.

Journal of Commerce, May 2, 1949, p. 18.

## POTATOES

### SWEETPOTATO ACREAGE REDUCED

Fewer sweetpotatoes are available, and prices to farmers and at retail are moderately higher than a year earlier. Farmers' intentions on March 1 indicated a



further reduction in acreage this year, which might make plantings the smallest since 1886. Reasons for the reduction are given as lack of a good marketing system in most areas, difficulties experienced in controlling the sweetpotato weevil, and heavy labor requirements.

Demand and Price Situation, April 1949, p. 16.

## STARCH PRODUCED FROM CULL POTATOES

The Idaho potato starch industry has four plants producing starch from cull potatoes and a fifth plant will probably be in operation during the coming season. Each plant has a minimum capacity of 20 tons of starch per day, requiring from 160 to 300 tons of potatoes. From the processors, during the past seven seasons, farmers in the area received approximately \$2,300,000 for their "culls," which ordinarily would have gone to waste. The processed starch brought \$6,300,000, of which more than \$500,000 was profit. The textile industry, which is the largest user, pays premium prices for this starch. Other uses are in the manufacture of adhesives, food products, pharmaceuticals, and paper. Several million pounds of potato pulp have been recovered and sold at 80 percent moisture content for stock feed.

Chemurgic Digest, April 1949, p. 11.

## L I N T E R S S A N D C E L L U L O S E

### NO CHANGE IN LINTERS PULP AND WOOD PULP PRICES

Cellulose prices remained unchanged during the month of April.

Table 10.- Average annual price of purified linters and dissolving wood pulp, 1946-48 and monthly quotations January-April 1949

(Cents per pound)					
	Purified linters 1/	Standard viscose grade	Wood pulp 2/ High-tenacity: viscose grade	Acetate & cupra grade	
1946.....	9.50	5.60	5.85	6.15	
1947.....	16.30	7.03	7.44	8.04	
1948.....	11.25	7.93	8.44	9.20	
1949, January.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	
1949, February.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	
1949, March.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	
1949, April.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	

1/ Weighted averages, 1946-47. On 7 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. pulp plant. Average freight to users is 0.5 percent per pound. Prices supplied by a producer.

2/ Average of average monthly prices, 1946-47. Compiled from Rayon Organon and from letters to us from producer. Wood pulp prices are on a 10 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. domestic producing mill, full freight and 3 percent transportation tax allowed, December 1, 1947, on; freight equalized with that of Atlantic or Gulf port carrying lowest backhaul rate to destination plus 3 percent backhaul charges, prior to December 1.



# LINTERS PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION DECLINE; STOCKS INCREASE

Cotton linters production of 144,000 bales in March was the largest on record for that month, but fell below the 159,000 bales produced in February. Consumption declined from 134,000 bales in March to 120,000 bales in April 1949, as compared to 97,000 bales in April 1948. The 1,056,000 bales consumed during the first 9 months of the current season represent an increase of 21 percent over last season's consumption in the same period. Shipments from oil mills during March, although the heaviest on record for that month, were considerably lighter than in February. March stocks of linters increased slightly.

Table 11.- Cotton linters: Production, consumption by industries; stocks, and prices, United States, 1940 and 1946-49

Calendar year	Production 1/	Consumption			Stocks 3/	Price per pound 1/	
		Total consumption 2/	Quantity bleached 2/	Other industries 2/		No. 2 grade	No. 4 grade
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	Cents	Cents
1940.....	1,055.5	1,116.3	4/	4/	799	4.96	3.87
1946.....	969.1	1,037.9	4/	4/	439	8.93	6.56
1947.....	1,133.5	1,055.7	595.1	460.6	476	11.01	8.57
1948.....	1,446.7	1,241.3	709.1	532.2	609	9.04	6.54
1949, Jan..	187.5	123.0	80.6	42.4	672	7.99	4.60
1949, Feb..	159.4	119.0	75.6	43.4	668	7.66	4.15
1949, Mar..	144.0	134.1	83.9	50.2	682	7.64 5/	4.09
1949, Apr..	4/	120.0	73.2	46.7	4/	7.84 5/	4.26 5/

1/ From Production and Marketing Administration, Cotton Branch, Weekly Cotton Linters Review, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

2/ From Facts for Industry, Cotton and Linters, Bureau of the Census.

3/ Total stocks in consuming establishments, public storage and warehouses, and at oil mills. Stocks at end of years and months. From Facts for Industry, Cotton and Linters, Bureau of the Census.

4/ Not available.

5/ Preliminary.

## \$13.3 MILLION EXPANSION APPROVED BY HOLLINGSWORTH AND WHITNEY IN MOBILE

A \$13.3 million expansion program has been approved for the Mobile, Alabama, mill of the Hollingsworth and Whitney Co. Plans call for a 50 percent increase in pulp and paper manufacturing capacity, and a 100 percent increase in bleaching facilities. The company's plant, located at Magazine Point, Alabama, just north of Mobile, was built in 1940 at an estimated cost of \$6 million. The firm, therefore, is spending more than twice as much money for expansion than was expended for original construction. An estimated \$2 million of the expansion program is already under way in the building of a new water treatment plant and water pipeline. The company at present employs 750 persons.

Southern Pulp and Paper Manufacturer, April 15, 1949, p. 24.

## \$6.1 BILLION SALES IN 1948 FOR PULP, PAPER, AND PAPERBOARD INDUSTRY

While 1948 recorded an all-time peak output of wood pulp, paper, and board, it also probably marked the end of the sharply upward trend in output that has been



observed since the close of the war. Should the 1949 market exceed present trade estimates, however, even more paper and board could be readily produced with current and nearly completed capacity. In less than a decade, the value of sales has increased by more than \$4 billion—from \$1.8 billion in 1939 to an estimated \$6.1 billion in 1948, compared with \$3.6 billion in 1945; and \$5.7 billion in 1947. The industry employed approximately 394,000 workers in 1948, paying total wages of \$1,063 million.

Southern Pulp and Paper Manufacturer, April 15, 1949, p. 30.

#### CUBA SELLS 54 MILLION GALS. MOLASSES AT 4 CENTS

The Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute has announced the sale of 54 million gallons of molasses to Publicker Industries, Inc., Philadelphia. The sale disposed of the last of the distressed supply which had accumulated because of shortage of storage space. The price was understood to be about 4 cents a gal. Henceforth, the Institute said, it expects to get the true market value.

Feedstuffs, April 2, 1949, p. 70.

#### AMMONIA SALTS SUBSTITUTED FOR ONE-THIRD OF PROTEIN IN RUMINANT FEED

In a recent address entitled "Science vs. Starvation," Carl S. Miner, founder of the Miner Laboratories of Chicago, said that science has shown that ammonia salts or urea, can be fed to ruminants in amounts equivalent to one-third their total protein intake. "When we realize that one of the serious world shortages is of protein, that here is a potential substitute for one-third of the protein now fed to ruminants, and that in the last analysis it can be made from the constituents of air and water, the tremendous possibilities are apparent," he said. He further stated that this use of ammonia and its derivatives as a substitute for part of the protein requirements of farm animals is no longer a laboratory experiment. The DuPont Company, which recently began offering to the feed industry a urea product for use as a partial substitute for the ordinary plant proteins, such as those of cottonseed meal, soybeans, and alfalfa, reports that more than two million tons of urea-containing feeds have already been fed to farm animals.

Agricultural News Letter (DuPont)  
Vol. 17, No. 3., May-June 1949, p. 55

In fattening steer calves, 24 percent urea pellets were equal to cottonseed meal, pound for pound, on a price basis. One hundred pounds of 50 percent pellets equalled 134 pounds of cottonseed meal. Results with big steers were not as good, however. The problem now appears to be chiefly one of finding best ways of using this feed under various conditions and with different classes of ruminant animals.

Feedstuffs, April 2, 1949, p. 50.

#### NEW FAST-DRYING SYNTHETIC PAINT OIL AVAILABLE

Development of a new synthetic drying oil, derived partly from vegetable oils, which can be "tailor-made" to suit a wide variety of specific requirements in paint-making, was announced recently by research chemists of the Sherwin-Williams Co. This new product was developed primarily for use as the bodied portion of the vehicle in exterior paints since it overcomes some of the inherent disadvantages of bodied linseed or bodied soya-china wood combinations in this application. The product, when used as the bodied portion of paint vehicles, is said to be advantageous from the standpoint of durability and package stability, thorough drying, freedom from after-tack, and color retention.

Journal of Commerce, May 6, 1949, p. 20.



## DRY CASEIN OUTPUT UP 75 PERCENT IN MARCH

March production of dry casein was estimated at 2,100,000 pounds, a gain of 75 percent from a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. This brought production for the first quarter of 1949 to 4,780,000 pounds—up 60 percent from the same period in 1948 and 25 percent above the quarterly average for 1943-47. Manufacturers' stocks on March 31, this year, were 2,350,000 pounds, a gain of 43 percent from a year earlier, but down 38 percent from the five-year average for the date March 31. Stocks in past years ranged from 1,645,000 pounds in 1948 to 9,701,000 pounds in 1942.

Daily News Record, May 5, 1949, p.13, Sec.1.